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| **Date:** | 21 February 2012 |
| **Subject:** | Learning environment keeps up with students |

A new vocational e-learning project is enabling students to share ideas in an innovative and stimulating learning environment provided by live video-streaming.

Holmesglen Institute of TAFE is using e-learning technology to create collaborative learning between students and graphic design experts.

Delivered via the National Broadband Network (NBN) and focussing on students of graphic design, video-streaming technology is facilitating student access to industry specialists in an authentic work setting. This forum for sharing and constructing knowledge will assist in maintaining and enhancing industry relationships to ensure course content remains relevant, while keeping students up-to-date and immersed in the fast-paced emerging technology environment.

While Holmesglen currently invites leading industry specialists to speak with students, this technology will extend the opportunity to engage and access more graphic specialists. As such, students will benefit from real and visual stimulation, allowing them to develop and refine the broad and complex range of specialised knowledge and skills required as a graphic design professional.

The project has been made possible through funding from the National VET E-learning Strategy, whose NBN E-learning Programs provide opportunitiesto create innovative approaches to demonstrate the power of broadband to enhance outcomes for learners, and promote growth in broadband-based training as the NBN rollout proceeds.

“This project supports new and emerging technologies, as the graphic design industry moves away from its traditional print platform to new multimedia platforms,” says National NBN Programs Manager Fiona Huskinson.

It is expected that this model can then be used to cultivate partnerships with industry specialists in other fields.

The National VET E-learning Strategy is the responsibility of the Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG), a key policy advisory group on national directions and priorities for information and communication technologies in the VET sector.

“Used strategically, the new technological environment will provide unprecedented access to more accessible training and learning opportunities,” says FLAG Chair Raymond Garrand, Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

“By sponsoring e-learning programs at NBN sites, we are expanding participation and access for learners, stimulating innovative approaches to training and employment, and improving the skill levels of the Australian workforce.”

**Core statements for editorial use**

* The National VET E-learning Strategy 2012-2015 (‘the Strategy’) is aimed at strengthening the Australian training sector’s use of new learning technologies, stimulating innovative approaches to increasing participation in training and employment, and improving the skill levels of the Australian workforce
* Investment in the Strategy will stimulate innovative approaches to increasing participation in training and improve the skill levels of the Australian workforce
* To enable the three-year program of action, government funding has been approved to:
* capitalise on the rollout of the National Broadband Network by demonstrating the benefits of the national investment in broadband
* support large-scale workforce development in industry through partnerships and comprehensive e-learning advice
* expand participation and access for individuals through e-learning programs delivering foundation skills and e-literacy
* The Strategy is managed by the Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG), a key policy advisory group on national directions and priorities for information and communication technologies in the VET sector
* The chair of FLAG is Mr Raymond Garrand, Chief Executive of the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

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